

# News from Ed Markey

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## **MARKEY: INSPECTORS NEED MORE TIME AND BETTER COOPERATION IN IRAQ**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Co-Chair of the Bipartisan Task Force on Nonproliferation, urged the Bush Administration to allow the inspections taking place in Iraq to continue.

“Today’s report by the UN inspectors in Iraq raises a number of disturbing questions about the nature and adequacy of Iraqi cooperation with its disarmament obligations,” said Rep. Markey. “At the same time, it asks that unreasonable deadlines not be placed on the effort to answer those questions. We will know very soon whether Iraq will come clean and agree to disarm, or if they are not cooperating and are still trying to develop weapons of mass destruction. The inspections process will answer that pressing question, if we let it. Having orchestrated the revival of an intrusive U.N.-led inspections process, it is important not to shut it down barely two weeks after it became fully-staffed and equipped.”

The report submitted today indicates that under the resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council, Iraq is required to actively cooperate with the UN inspectors. It is supposed to fully reveal all of its weapons of mass destruction programs. It must also provide the inspectors with evidence that these programs have been dismantled and any weapons created have been destroyed, or Iraq must present any prohibited technology or weaponry to the UN so that the inspectors can destroy those weapons immediately. The UN inspectors’ report indicates that Iraq has not been complying with these requirements. Specifically, it has failed to provide evidence required to resolve many unresolved disarmament issues identified in two 1999 reports by UN inspectors. In today’s report, Hans Blix mentioned some examples of issues and questions that remain unresolved. They include:

- Iraqi efforts to develop and weaponize VX nerve gas. Including indications that the Iraqis have lied about the success of their efforts to purify and weaponize VX; discrepancies in Iraqi accounts regarding how many chemical bombs were dropped on Iran during the Iran-Iraq war that suggest 1,000 tons of chemical agents may remain unaccounted for; indications that Iraq has retained prohibited chemical warheads for rockets; and discovery of laboratory quantities of a mustard gas precursor chemical at a laboratory in Iraq.
- Iraqi failure to provide inspectors with evidence regarding its claimed production of 8,500 liters of anthrax, or to provide convincing evidence of its destruction. The UN inspectors report indicates that “there are strong indications that Iraq produced more anthrax than it declared, and that at least some of this was retained after the declared destruction date.” The UN inspectors report that some of this anthrax might still exist – enough to produce 5,000 liters of concentrated anthrax.
- Iraqi failure to come clean regarding its ballistic missile programs. Including failure to provide data to back up its claim that some unaccounted for SCUD missiles were destroyed as part of a

test of a ballistic missile defense system. The inspectors also indicate that Iraq has conducted flight tests of two missiles which violate the 150 kilometer limit imposed on its ballistic missile programs. While Iraq claims the deployed missiles will comply with this limit, the UN inspectors say that "these missiles might well represent prima facie cases of proscribed systems."

In addition, the UN inspectors report strongly suggests that Iraq continues to conceal documents from them, that it has failed to provide lists of personnel who worked on its weapons of mass destruction programs, that it has thwarted the inspectors efforts to interview key weapons scientists that have been identified.

Rep. Markey concluded, "The UN inspector's report indicates that while the Iraqis generally have been cooperative on process matters, they have been less than forthcoming on substantive matters. The report identifies several areas where Saddam Hussein appears to be 'hiding the ball' from the inspectors, and several areas where the jury is still out on where or not Iraq has committed a violation."

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